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of the author. An example of this may be seen in his species of Crotalis. Besides ignoring some good species, he adopts the *C. polystictus* under the later name, *C. ximmesii*, while he places the name *C. polystictus* as a synonym of the different *C. triseriatus* of Wagler. The quarto volume referred to contains a number of good plates, which gives some value to the work. On the whole, however, we think the author should have waited until his knowledge of the subject was more complete before attempting to publish.

GALTON'S RECORD OF FAMILY FACULTIES.[1]—This book is a series of blanks designed for those who may desire to forecast the mental and bodily faculties of their children, and to further the science of heredity. As stated in the preface, the natural gifts of each individual being inherited from the ancestry, it is possible to foresee much of the latent capacities of a child in mind and body, of the probabilities of his future health and longevity, and of his tendencies to special forms of disease, by a knowledge of the traits of his ancestors. When the science of heredity shall have become more advanced, the accuracy of such predictions will improve, and meanwhile we may feel assured that fewer blunders will be made in rearing and educating children, under the guidance of a knowledge of their family antecedents, than without it.

It is to be hoped that those at all interested in the improvement of the race in general, as well as their own descendants, will make a fair trial by keeping such a record as this, and we hope that similar blanks may be issued in this country by our boards of health, a work which has already, we believe, been done in Massachusetts.

In reading the introduction, and looking over the blanks, we may obtain some idea of what of a practical nature is involved in the idea of heredity. It is the custom with many to make light of heredity, as if there were little in the matter; whereas, the intelligent observer is well aware that, together with variation, heredity is one of the twin forces in the world of life.

One is proud of his distinguished ancestors, but in such a record as this, equal attention is paid to the claims of every ancestor in the same degree of kinship. "No countenance is given to the vanity that prompts most family historians to trace their pedigree to some notable ancestor, and to pass the rest over in silence. It demands an equal recognition of all the lines. We should remember the insignificance of any single ancestor in a remote degree. In the fourth generation backwards there are sixteen ancestors, from whom the child receives on the average an equal inheritance. In the fifth there are thirty-two. One ancestor who lived at the time of the Norman conquest, twenty-four generations back, contributes (on the supposition of no intermarriage of kinsfolk) less than one part in 16,000,000 to the constitution of a man of the present day."

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[1] *Record of Family Faculties*, consisting of tabular forms and directions for entering data, with an explanatory preface. By FRANCIS GALTON, F.R.S. London, Macmillan & Co., 1884, 4to.

Mr. Galton thinks that if the father of a family of children collects all the required data concerning his own parents and grandparents, and similarly those concerning the parents and grandparents of his wife, then it is probable in most cases that their children, being informed about all their ancestry up to their eight great-grandparents inclusive, will be equipped with almost as much hereditary information as they can need.

Thus far our ignorance, the author claims, of the conditions by which the level of humanity may be raised, is so great that he believes "if one had some dictator of the Spartan type, who exercised absolute power over marriages, assigning A to be the wife of B, and C to be the wife of D, and who acted with the best intentions, he might possibly do even more harm than good to the race." No man is isolated from his fellows, but is "a prolongation of his ancestry in no metaphorical sense," and the author claims that the compilation of these registers will extend this conviction very widely. In order to obtain statistics bearing on heredity, Mr. Galton offers £500 in prizes to those British subjects resident in Great Britain who shall furnish him with the best extracts from their own family records.

BALBIANI'S LECTURES ON THE SPOROZOA.[1]—The class of Sporozoa was founded by Leuckart in 1879, by whom it was regarded as a new group of Protozoa. Besides the Gregarines it embraced all those parasitic unicellular organisms called Psorosperms. Besides the oviform Psorosperms or Coccidia of Leuckart, in 1881 Bütschli proposed the name of Myxosporidia for the Psorosperms of fishes. In 1882, in his lectures, Professor Balbiani suggested the term Sarcosporidia for the utriculiform Psorosperms, while he places among the Sporozoa a fifth group, which he designates as Microsporidia, comprising the vibrating corpuscles of the silkworm and allied organisms, regarded for a long time as Psorosperms by Leydig and himself.

As thus constituted we have, for the first time, in this useful work a succinct and interesting account of these strange parasites, which are so widespread throughout the tissues of all animals, from the Infusoria to man, and which correspond to the Bacteria among the Protophytes. One of them causes fatal sickness by its rapid and extreme multiplication in the liver of the hare, and has also once occurred in man, producing death. Several of them propagate epidemically, and give rise to more or less fatal epizootics; such are the Sarcosporidia of the sheep and poultry, which

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[1] *Cours d'Embryogenie comparée du College de France. Lecons sur les Sporozoaires.* Par G. BALBIANI. Recueilles par le Dr. PELLETAN. Revues par le Professeur. Avec 52 figures intercalées dans le Texte et 5 Planches lithographiées hors texte. Paris, 1884. 8vo, pp. 184.